

**House Bill 7285 An Act Concerning Complaints that Allege Misconduct by Law Proposed  
Enforcement Personnel**

Members of the Judiciary Committee

I am a resident of Wethersfield Connecticut that would like to share my written testimony in support of the proposed house bill 7285. When I moved to Wethersfield and started a family here I knew I made the right decision. This is a great town with great people and I have so much pride in my very active community. That's why I can't fathom that we should have a police force that would not comply with an existing law, so I would like you all to know that I support these provisions in order to ensure compliance with the process of filing a complaint with a police department.

While I support the proposed house bill 7285 I also recognize that it needs to be amended in order to be answer the police complaint process needs to be fixed. There are three components that will make this bill far more effective. Accountability to the police departments that do not comply with process. There must be some sort of reprimand or repercussion for not complying. There needs to be a standardization of the form being used for complaints across the state to help with record keeping and data tracking. And finally, there must be some sort of tracking and annual reporting to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, so that the information collected is actually made useful. These amendments are needed because many departments including Wethersfield's are not in compliance with the process in its current form. In a survey conducted by the ACLU a volunteer was told by the Wethersfield Police Department they that were unsure if they would be reported to immigration if they filed a complaint and that would be unable to file a complaint anonymously.

I teach my kids that the police are there to keep them safe, that they are trusted members of our community. If we can't create a process that will provide a level of transparency, if they won't comply, what will I teach them then? I am asking you to hold police departments and law enforcement agencies accountable for complying with a process that should in fact create a level of transparency between us and them that I don't feel exists in this exact moment. It is something that will ultimately improve relations between communities and law enforcement.

Please support and amend Proposed House Bill 7285.

Dorothy DeVincke

Wethersfield, CT